

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
 - receiving at an audio-rendering device, data comprising digital audio data transmitted across a network from a host;
 - determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded;
 - selecting a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded;
 - decoding the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme to generate decoded audio data, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded;
 - preparing the decoded audio data for output, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded; and
 - preparing the received digital audio data for output without decoding, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is not encoded.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein:
 - preparing the received digital audio data for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output; and
 - preparing the decoded audio data for output comprises converting the decoded audio data to analog audio for output.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of the at least two coding schemes comprises determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to coding schemes including mp3, wav, au, and aiff.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving digital audio data comprises receiving a plurality of digital audio data segments and reconstructing the digital audio data from the received plurality of digital audio data segments.
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein determining whether the received digital audio data is encoded according to one of at least two coding schemes comprises identifying an indicator code included within at least one of the plurality of digital audio data segments.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:
determining whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and
if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed, then decompressing the compressed digital audio data based upon the selected decoding scheme.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, further comprising providing as output the analog audio to an amplification device.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital audio data is received across at least one of a plurality of networks including a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.
10. (Previously Presented) A special purpose audio-rendering device comprising:

a network interface to receive digital audio data transmitted over a network from an audio host; and

a processor coupled with the network interface to:

determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed;

select a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed;

decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme to generate decompressed audio data, if the received digital audio data is determined to be compressed; and

a converter coupled to the processor to:

convert the decompressed audio data to analog audio for output, if the processor determines that the received digital audio data is compressed; and

convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output without decoding, if the processor determines that the received digital audio data is uncompressed.

11. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The special purpose audio-rendering device according to claim 10, further comprising a read only memory coupled to the processor to store at least one CODEC.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A residential network audio system comprising:

a host device disposed in a first location to execute an audio application to play digital audio data and to selectively intercept the digital audio data output from the audio application for to-transmit digital audio data over a network;

an audio bridging device disposed in a second location, the audio bridging device communicatively coupled to the host device via the network to receive the digital audio data transmitted from the host device, to determine whether received digital audio data is encoded, to select a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, to decode the received digital audio data to generate decoded audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme if the received digital audio data is encoded, to convert the decoded audio data to analog audio for output if the received digital audio data is encoded, and to convert the received digital audio data to analog audio for output if the received digital audio is not encoded; and

stereo equipment communicatively coupled to the audio bridging device, the stereo equipment to amplify the analog audio.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the network comprises a network including at least one of a phoneline network, a powerline network, and a HomeRF network.

19. (Previously Presented) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the audio bridging device is further disposed to:

determine whether the received digital audio data is compressed; and
decompress the compressed digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme.

20. (Original) The residential network audio system according to claim 16, wherein the digital audio data is transmitted according to the real-time transport protocol (RTP).

21. (Previously Presented) An article comprising a machine readable medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions stored thereon, that when executed by the machine, cause the machine to:

- receive digital audio data;
- determine whether the received digital audio data is encoded;
- select a decoding scheme based on one of at least two coding schemes by which the received digital audio data is encoded, if the received digital audio data is determined to be encoded;
- decode the encoded digital audio data in accordance with the selected decoding scheme to generate decoded audio data, if the received digital audio data is determined to be encoded; and
- prepare the decoded audio data for output, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is encoded; and
- prepare the received digital audio data for output without decoding, if the determining determines that the received digital audio data is not encoded.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein receiving the digital audio data further comprises receiving the digital audio data transmitted across a local area network from a host device.

24. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 6, further comprising:
selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein selecting the one of the two coding schemes based on the identified indicator code comprises:

accessing a lookup table that includes entries for the at least two coding schemes; comparing the identified indicator code to the entries in the lookup table; and identifying an entry in the lookup table that corresponds to the indicator code, wherein the entry is the coding scheme by which the received digital audio data is encoded.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein preparing the received digital audio data for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output comprises converting the received digital audio data to analog audio for output to a speaker proximate the audio-rendering device.

31. – 36. (Cancelled)